

Date: Thu, 7 Jul 94 00:06:11 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #756
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Thu, 7 Jul 94 Volume 94 : Issue 756

Today's Topics:

Amateur Radio Newsline #881 1 Jul 94
Does CW as a pre-req REALLY Work? (2 msgs)
GB2ATG (July 1994)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Wed, 6 Jul 1994 18:57:11 MDT
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!gatech!newsxfer.itd.umich.edu!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!
ve6mgs!usenet@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Amateur Radio Newsline #881 1 Jul 94
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The electronic publication of the Amateur Radio Newsline is distributed
with the permission of Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, President and Editor of
Newsline. The text version is edited from the original scripts and
transcribed from the audio reports by Dale Cary, WDOAKO, and is first
published in The Radio & Electronics Round Table on the Genie Online
System.

If you have any comment, suggestion, or news item you would like to submit,
send them via E-Mail to 3241437@mcimail.com or B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com.
You can contact Newsline at +1 805-296-7180. It is a combination answering
and FAX machine, if you have a FAX to send, wait for the voice prompt and
press your fax-send button.

All other information and disclaimers are in the text header below.

- - - - -
NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #131 - POSTED 07/05/94

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio
Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of
the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO
NETWORK. For current information updates, please call

Audio Version of Newsline

=====

Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 353-2801
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 259-4479

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie (RTC Bulletin Board).....	m345;1
GEnie (File Library).....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
Delphi.....	
In the ham radio conference	
Internet.....	

In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
FTP: oak.oakland.edu, archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline
Fidonet, RIME, Intellec, I-Link.....
In the Ham Radio conferences on those networks

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

(*****)

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

(*****)

[881]

(* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *)
(* * * * * *)
(* The following is a closed circuit advisory and is not *)
(* for air over amateur radio. Repeat, not for broadcast. This *)
(* is just a reminder that the address for the Newsline Support *)
(* Fund is Newsline, in care of Dr. Norm Chalfin, K6PGX, Post *)
(* Office Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102. Again, and as *)
(* always, we thank you. That ends the closed circuit with *)
(* Newsline report number 881 for release on Friday, July 1st, *)
(* 1994 to follow. *)
(* * * * * *)
(* * * * * *)

The following is a QST

The FCC proposes automatic operation for high frequency digital operations and more on the alleged California VE licensing scam. Learn what it used to cost to buy a license in La La land on Newsline Report number 881 coming your way right now!

(*****

FCC PROPOSES AUTOMATIC CONTROL FOR HF DIGITAL COMS.

The FCC has proposed amending the Amateur Service rules to authorize automatic control of stations transmitting a digital signal on the High Frequency bands. The action had been requested in petitions filed by the ARRL and the American Digital Radio Society.

In its release, the FCC has proposed to authorize automatic control for stations transmitting data and RTTY in specific subbands of each High Frequency band where such emissions are authorized. It also proposed to authorize communication between a locally or remotely controlled station and an automatically controlled station on any frequency where data and RTTY emission types are otherwise authorized.

The FCC says that it is gratified by the cooperation and dedication of the two amateur organizations in determining the conditions necessary to allow automatic control of stations transmitting data and RTTY on the HF bands. It agrees with the two petitioners that automatic control of amateur stations in the HF bands can, with safeguards, make the transmission of data and RTTY emission types both practical and effective.

The notice of proposed rule making is designated Personal Radio Docket 94-59.

(*****

HOW THE VE SCAM WORKED

More information has come to light on the activities of up to three dozen suspect volunteer examiners thought California. This is the same group of VE's that we have been reporting on since late last year. The bunch that is under government investigation for possible fraud in the testing of candidates for amateur radio licenses and upgrades. Enough information has now surfaced so that Newsline has been able to reconstruct the way in which the scam may have been operated.

To begin with, this is an overly simplified version of what most likely took place. We preface it by saying there is a lot more paperwork at a ham radio testing session than we are going to talk about, but the FCC does not see every bit of it.

As far as the FCC and Volunteer Examination Coordinators are concerned, there are actually three key documents of concern up the license processing chain. These are the completed Form 610's that bear the signature of the volunteer examiners to certify an individual passed an examination. There is a document signed by the Volunteer Examiners to certify that they are charging applicants only for expenses at the prescribed government reimbursement rate. Finally, there is a manifest listing those who attended a session and whether they passed or failed. If our guess is correct, it was by manipulating these documents that fraudulent licensing was possible.

As reported last week, the FCC suspects that allegedly corrupt VE's would either create a non-existent test session or hold a legitimate one where additional people who never attended were added to the test manifest at a later date. In either case, it also appears as if names were also added of people who supposedly failed the examination. This, to keep a reasonable looking pass to failure rate.

By way of example. Suppose a legitimate session had ten people who were actually tested. The VE's suspected of wrongdoing might then add on another twenty, thirty or even fifty names in the same pass to failure ratio, complete with all necessary paperwork. This material would then be sent to the VEC and then onto the FCC.

Obviously the VEC and the FCC would have had no way of knowing that about the add-ons since only those with passing grades needed to have Form 610 applications. Those who paid the asking price but didn't attend the exam sessions were in fact buying completed paperwork from which they were issued legitimate FCC ham radio licenses.

And those names added on as failures to make the numbers come out right? Most likely they were taken from a nearby telephone book with the allegedly corrupt VE's making out the answer sheets in their name. These were probably people who never even knew that their names were being used in the commission of a federal crime until interviewed by government investigators.

(*****

LICENSE PRICES IN LA-LA LAND

What was the cost of getting a ham license this way? If you believe the talk on some Los Angeles repeaters, the word is that a Novice or No-Code Technician went for \$250, a General was priced at \$500 and an Advanced Class ticket at \$750. And the Amateur Extra -- the grand-daddy of them all -- the Amateur Extra came with a minimum \$1000 price tag, but it would go as high as the applicant would be willing to pay.

The FCC is currently limiting its investigation to the period

from the Spring of 1992 to the late winter of 1994. This is a period of about two years. Some in Los Angeles believe its been going on a lot longer. Possibly dating back to the early 1980's.

If its proven that all of those being investigated were actively selling ham licenses on a weekly basis for the entire time period, and figuring just one test session a week for each V-E team, the take even then becomes astronomical. In fact, its a figure that's so mind boggling that the internal Revenue Service might even show some interest if its found that no taxes were paid on this income.

Stay tuned. Obviously this story is not over yet.

(*****

CALIFORNIA LICENSE

Also from California comes word that the FCC's Los Angeles Office recently responded to a complaint from the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary that will probably cost an unlicensed operator some big bucks. The Amateur Auxiliary is a volunteer arm of the American Radio Relay League. It was called in to investigate after it received reports that an allegedly unlicensed amateur radio was promoting his brand of unlicensed operations on the ham bands.

The FCC says that he was using his station to broadcasting a message that citizens of California need not be licensed by the FCC because amateur radio is not interstate commerce. He was also heard issuing his own "California licenses" with call signs using an SC prefix. The SC obviously standing for Southern California.

So the FCC just let him rattle on while the agency's engineers used direction-finding techniques to located his station. The government says that it will soon be issuing him a hefty Notice of Apparent Liability for his own, personally licensed, unlicensed operation. The name of the suspect is being withheld pending this punitive action by the FCC.

(*****

PETER I OPERATOR PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

Robert Wilber, N4GCK, of Ypsilanti, Michigan and one of the operators on last February's Dxpeditio to Peter One Island 3Y0PI operation, has pleaded guilty to bank fraud and mail theft. According to a report in the Ann Arbor News, under a plea bargain agreement Wilber will receive a sentence of 24 to 37 months in federal prison. He will then be subject to three to five years of supervised probation following his release.

The paper that said Wilber took checks totaling some \$113,000 from the mailbox of a University of Michigan professor and cashed them. He was photographed at an automatic teller machine and his

photo appeared in local papers on December 20th, 1993. But Wilber avoided arrest long enough to join the expedition to Peter One. He surrendered on his return, having spent all the stolen money, the newspaper said.

(*****

CB BLOWHARD

The July issue of Popular Communications magazine reports that a CBer in the Salem Oregon area has turned to broadcasting. The problem is that the broadcasting is taking place in the middle of the 27 MHz Class D, CB band.

Writing in his CB Scene column, Bill Sanders says that this latest CB bandit comes onto CB Channel 10 every Sunday evening around 7 PM local time. He offers no identification, and his transmissions consist of the operator pouring out his personal rage on all sorts of political matters. Bill says that the one way transmissions can continue for as long as 90 minutes with no time out for commercial breaks.

And late word into Newsline is that the FCC's Seattle office has now become involved in the case.

(*****

INTERFERENCE TO BREATHING MONITOR

A legally operating Texas citizens radio operator has been ordered off the air because the FCC cannot figure out what to do about his signal that's causing RFI to a neighbors infant monitor.

The Dallas Office responded to a complaint that the CB radio station was believed to be a potential source of interference to an infant apnea breathing monitor. An infant apnea monitor is really nothing more than a cheepie one-way intercom operating in the 48 MHz band along with cordless telephones, childrens toy CB sets and two way wireless intercom sets.

Anyhow, it seems that the parents of the newborn relayed the fears to their physician that the neighbor's CB transmissions could desensitize the monitor so that it would fail to alarm if the baby stopped breathing. FCC investigators inspected the CB radio station to insure that no overpowered operation was present. Even though they found nothing wrong the FCC engineered unilaterally ordered the 11 meter CB station to cease operations until the agency can determine the monitor's desensitization susceptibility from its manufacturer.

At airtime its not known if the unidentified CB operator will be appealing the government order.

(*****

NEW ENFORCEMENT TOOL

The Federal Communications Commission has shown off a new vehicle equipped with two computers, a color printer, complete with a satellite receiver in the trunk. This car when driven through cities and neighborhoods can detect unlicensed radio signals and signals that cause malicious interference.

By months end the FCC will have ten such cars, each installed with \$75,000.00 worth of electronic equipment. The Commission would not say which field offices will get the first cars. The goal is to provide each Field Office with at least two of these cars.

(*****

REACT CONVENTION

REACT International's 1994 national convention is slated for July 18th to the 22nd at the Somerset New Jersey Radisson Hotel. The convention is being hosted by the Garden State Council of REACT teams.

For those of you not aware, REACT is a citizens radio group that used to operate primarily on the 27 Mhz Class D citizens band. While some CB operation is still a part of REACT, these days its members primarily uses General Mobile Radio Service frequencies to provide all sorts of public assistance. While a ham license is nor required for participation in REACT, many hams have joined the organization with some holding high ranking positions in its structure.

If you are a REACT member or interested in learning more about becoming a member, this is probably a gathering well worth attending.

(*****

NORM CHALFIN RETIRES

Our heartiest congratulations to our close friend and colleague here at Newsline, Dr. Norm Chalfin, K6PGX, on his retirement from the Jet Propulsion Lab on Tuesday June the 21st. In addition to his administering the Newsline support fund -- a fund that he created some fifteen years ago -- K6PGX has also worked closely with the folks at AMSAT to chronicle in photographs and slides much of the history of the organization and its numerous achievements.

To his family here at Newsline, he is a very special person. He showed up at a time that he was needed most, volunteered to find a way to help get support from the Amateur Radio community to keep the then Westlink Radio Network in production. He set up the support fund. He worked closely with attorney Bernard Heinz WA2BAK to walk us though our incorporation under the banner of the

>this 'initiation' then please explain the poor operating practices on
>the bands...

[remainder deleted...]

This is a great thread, and I'll offer my reactions to what has been said here:

I have been licensed since 1962 when, as a nervous 14-year-old, I passed my first code exam at 5WPM in front of a much older, and rather stern, volunteer examiner. My General, Advanced and Extra were passed by sitting before the FCC, and there were no canned question-and-answer lists in those days, just the ARRL's study manuals.

I'm afraid I will have to agree that, under the present regime, the CW requirement probably does not add much to the overall integrity or fraternity of the amateur ranks. Someone else in this thread suggested that the amateur service as a whole is just going to reflect the common denominator of the culture in which it exists, and I believe this is probably the real bottom line. I don't think it's any secret that our culture has gone through some real changes in the last 25 years. In the past, perhaps, when I was coming up through the ranks, going through this "rite of passage" really meant something; I think the whole ritual of going before the FCC and so on made it kind of special; it was certainly intimidating! (As some of you will recall, letter-for-letter copy was required, 1 perfect uninterrupted minute; and we had to send in those days, too -- one at a time, out loud, in front of the examiner and everybody else!)

Time goes on, and things ultimately have to change and evolve in order to survive. I too have spent the vast majority of my ham career on CW by choice (I took the Extra because those juicy DX-laden frequencies down at the bottom of the bands were too good not to have!), but I don't for a moment imagine that having passed 20WPM (or any other speed) has somehow made me a better ham, any more than it has made me a better person. It's just what passing that test represented at the time -- and I seriously doubt whether any kind of test could represent the same thing in today's world.

Comments?

73,
Bill, N6FN
bill@cruz.com

Date: 7 Jul 1994 02:40:20 -0400
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!
newsxfer.itd.umich.edu!montego!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Does CW as a pre-req REALLY Work?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>>
>> It seems the majority of hams think CW is an effective pre-requisite to
>>get on HF. I'm going to challenge this. (BTW, 90% of my HF ops is CW, before
>>you start flaming me). I personally prefer CW, it seems like the more
>>courteous mode, these days. That's my PERSONAL preference. CW is just
>>another mode of operation after all, like RTTY, packet SSTV, etc.
>>
>> If CW is such an effective filter, and all those on HF have 'passed'
>>this 'initiation' then please explain the poor operating practices on
>>the bands...

As of 5 hours ago, 2130 UTC, I started learning the code.
I can now, with no trouble, recall the letters
a e i t n m
and
...-- (the "break" if that is indeed a legit cw sign)

I'm about ready to burst wanting to learn code, when, five
months ago, after passing my test, I was convinced CW was for
old geezers who don't like to use a microphone.

As soon as I can get up to 13 WPM, I will take my General
upgrade(from Tech as I am now...without code, I should add in case
someone missed that point), and get on the HF bands somehow.

For those who don't want to learn the code, and only
have their Tech licenses just to get on the repeater, more power to them.
Whatever turns your crank. I'd love to learn the whole code, as I'm doing now,
and eventually get into packet.

However, forcing someone to learn code to get on the ham bands
will, again, as was the case, keep the amateur community more closed.
Dealers of amateur radios today know that the 'new' tech no code license
(which is still a plain ole' Technician) brings in a lot of money,
especially the HT craze going. If the requisite is, again, to know
morse code @ 5 WPM, many would rather give it up than have to learn
morse code just to talk voice on the local 2m repeaters. I can almost
certainly say that I would have not taken my tests if I had to have learned
code. And, the other friends who are now studying to become a Tech,
they also would say "To hell with this!" if code were required.

Indeed, it is a very good practice to know code, as is the ability
to not only talk on the radio, but to understand what you're doing as well.
For myself, I can only hope to keep learning more and more about my
new hobby, and exposing and integrating others into it as well.

--

.....
Matt Rupert - 2984 Pheasant Run Dr. Apt D - Jackson MI 49202 - hoagy@ais.org
Personal Security / UNIX Enthusiast / Amateur Radio - KB8SGL
Which is worse: ignorance or apathy? Who knows? Who cares?

Date: Wed, 6 Jul 1994 10:28:00 -0600
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!gatech!newsxfer.itd.umich.edu!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!
ve6mgs!usenet@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: GB2ATG (July 1994)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

BARTG * GB2ATG * NEWS * BARTG * NEWS * GB2ATG * BARTG
This is the - British Amateur Radio Teledata Group - News Broadcast Service
for all Amateurs and Short Wave Listeners interested in RTTY Amtor, Pactor
and Packet Radio.

This news is broadcast during the first full week commencing Monday each
month, to the following schedule..

Evening transmissions at 1930 GMT. on 3.584 MHz. Mark. +/- for QRM.
RTTY on Monday-AFSK, Wednesday-AFSK and Friday-FSK
Pactor-FEC on Tuesday.
Amtor-FEC on Thursday and Saturday.

Morning transmission at 1000 GMT. on 7.041 MHz. Mark. +/- for QRM.
RTTY on Sunday-AFSK.

An edited version of this bulletin is available on the Packet network as a
BARTG at GBR. file thanks to: Andy (G3ZYP) at GB7MXM.#36.GBR.EU.

It is also posted on the "INTERNET" system via the INFO-HAMS list on UCSD.EDU.
thanks to Iain (G6ARO) who is available on the "JANET" network as
Iain@HUMBER.AC.UK

News for July 1994. Bulletin No. 019.

BARTG Information.
Important notice affecting transmission times.
Commencing August 1994 transmission times for this news bulletin
will be adjusted to UK LOCAL time throughout the year.
>From Monday 1st August 1994.
Evening transmissions will be made at 20:00 hrs. UK local time.
Sunday morning transmission will be made at 10:00 hrs UK local time.

Although this news is directed towards interest on the HF bands the editor is
aware of the need for news to reach members not licensed or equipped to receive
bulletins on the HF frequencies. Making bulletins available on the VHF Packet
network is not the complete solution. I would welcome suggestions for improving
the service to benefit a wider audience. (ed).

A number of requests for broadcasts on the 145 MHz band in the North Kent area

are being served by Ken (G0PCA) during broadcast week using AFSK on 145.300 MHz. at 20:30 local time on Wednesday.

RTTY DX Activity.

14 MHz. (all times are GMT.)

ZA1MH 0530, VE7VX 0600, VK3AKH 0700, V63VA 1300, RA2FB 1330, GD3HDL 1400, BV7WB and 5B4VX 1530, KL7XD 1600, 9K2WA 1730, 7Q7ZZ, GU/DL9YAJ and A41KD 1800, 9Q5PL 1900, IS0QDV 2200.

14 MHz. (PT) ZA1MH 0500.

QSL Information.

V63VA via OKDXA, P.O. Box 88, Wellston, OK 74881, USA.

ZA1MH via Mike Holman. P.O.Box 19, Tirana, Albania.

9Q5PL via OE7MCJ.

Contests.

The SARTG RTTY contest starts Saturday August 20 with contest periods from 0000 until 0800 and 1600 until 2400 Saturday 20th. 0800 until 1600 Sunday 21st.

Bands.

3.5 - 7 - 14 - 21 - 28 MHz. The same station may be contacted once on each band for QSO and multiplier points.

Classes.

A. Single operator all bands.

B. Single operator single band.

C. Multi operator, single TX all bands.

D. Short Wave Listener all bands.

(note) A single operator all bands may also enter a single band of own choice.

Exchange message.

To consist of RST and QSO serial number starting with 001.

QSO points.

QSO with own country scores five (5) points.

QSO with other countries in own continent ten (10) points.

QSO with other continents fifteen (15) points.

In Australia, Canada, Japan and USA, each call district will be considered a separate country.

Multipliers.

Each country as per the ARRL DXCC list will count as one (1) multiplier on each band, including the first contact with Australia, Canada, Japan and USA. In addition each call district in Australia, Canada, Japan and USA will count as one (1) multiplier on each band.

Scoring.

Sum of the QSO points times sum of multipliers = Total score.

Short Wave Listeners.

Use the same rules for scoring but based on stations and messages copied.

Awards.

To the top stations in each class, Country and District mentioned above, if the number of QSO's is reasonable.

Logs.

All logs must be received by 10th October 1994.

The logs must contain: Band, Date/Time UTC, Callsign, Message sent and received, Points and Multipliers. Use a separate sheet for each band and enclose a summary sheet showing the scoring class, your call, name and address. For multi operator stations, the callsigns and or names of all operators involved.

Post your completed logs to:

SARTG contest manager, Bo Ohlsson SM4CMG, Skulsta 1258, S-710 41 Fellingsbro, Sweden.

Your comments would be very much appreciated.

Notes of interest.

There are plans to activate St. Paul Island (CY9) during the first week in July. Transportation and landing permission are arranged. The team will be those who activated KP1 and KP5 in 1992 - 1993. Bob KW2P, Randy N0TG, Murray WA4DAN, Ron AA4VK and possibly Dave W0RJU. This team always provide RTTY. Sorry but no further details available.

A recent report states that Peter (XT2BW) is now signing 9G1PW from Ghana. Although Peter provides RTTY there are no reports of data activity yet. ZA1MH is active on all bands with RTTY, Amtor and Pactor.

Thanks this month to..

RSGB and SM4CMG.

BARTG caters for all DATA interests with information-components-kits -ready built units and software from experts. Members receive a 120 page quarterly journal devoted to data modes. Beginners guides for most data modes are available. The group sponsors HF and VHF RTTY contests, administers its own DX and members award scheme and runs an annual rally.

This copy of BARTG News is posted by Iain Kendall (G6AR0) who can be contacted via Internet e-mail at.. iain@humber.ac.uk Items for inclusion in the broadcast may also be mailed to this address, as well as any queries regarding membership or services offered by BARTG.

Copy of the news as distributed by G0ARF 940628.

End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #756
